

## Cologne & Ghent Christmas Markets

From £799 per person // 5 days



Visit two lovely Christmas market destinations in one festive holiday by rail. Your first stop is Cologne, offering a choice of seven different markets and plenty of glühwein. Then it's on to Ghent, a pretty university city with cobbled streets and a twinkling Christmas market selling original gifts.

### The Essentials

- Travel by train to two distinct Christmas market destinations
- Explore the extensive markets in Cologne, against the backdrop of the famous cathedral
- Browse the stalls of Ghent's Winter Festival and take a turn around the ice rink
- Enjoy an optional day trip to Bruges or Antwerp

### Tailor make your holiday

- Decide when you would like to travel
- Adapt the route to suit your plans
- Upgrade your hotels
- Add extra nights, destinations and/or tours

### What's included

- Standard Class rail travel with seat reservations
- 4 nights' handpicked hotel accommodation with breakfast
- Day trip to another Belgian Christmas market destination
- Comprehensive directions to your hotels
- Easy-to-follow travel documentation
- Despatch of tickets by email, post or collection from our London office

#### CHRISTMAS MARKETS DATES:

**COLOGNE** – 18 NOVEMBER TO 23 DECEMBER, **GHENT** – 5 – 31 DECEMBER, **BRUGES** – 22 NOVEMBER TO 5 JANUARY 2025

## - Suggested Itinerary -



### Day 1 - London To Cologne

Take the Eurostar from London's grand St Pancras station to Brussels. Here, change onto a high-speed German ICE service to Cologne. Both trains have bar buffet cars where you can purchase snacks and drinks and there's no restriction on bringing your own supplies with you. You will arrive in Cologne in the late afternoon and check in at the CityClass Europa am Dom (or similar) for a 2-night stay.



### Day 2 - Cologne

Enjoy a full day in Cologne, sampling all the festive fare the city has to offer. There are seven different markets in 2023, from the famous Cathedral Market which is the largest, to the Harbour Christmas market on the banks of the Rhine, near the Chocolate Museum, which is also well-worth a visit! You might also like to visit the cathedral itself, take a brewery tour or enjoy a cruise along the Rhine. Some of the best views of the city are to be had from the Cologne Triangle, across the river from the cathedral.



### Day 3 - Cologne To Ghent

Leave Cologne today for a return journey to Brussels. From here, a regional service will take you to Ghent. Because you don't need seat reservations on this train, you can choose to leave your luggage in Brussels Midi station and have a look at the Christmas markets around the stunning Grand Place or Marché aux Poissons. On arrival in Ghent, check in for 2-night stay at the Ghent River Hotel (or similar).



### Day 4 - Ghent

You have a free day today to discover pretty Ghent, with its canals and cobbled streets. The markets here are smaller than those in Cologne, but there's a lovely festive atmosphere with lots of pop-up bars and restaurants as well as an ice-rink. If you'd rather, you can also hop on the train to Bruges, a beautiful city with a bigger (and busier) Christmas market or Antwerp, which also has some other interesting attractions to visit.



### Day 5 - Ghent To London

Leave Ghent today for your return journey to London. If you don't live far from London, we can arrange an evening Eurostar service so you can enjoy another full day in Ghent (especially if you went to Bruges yesterday). Let us know what you would prefer.

## Pricing

From £799 per person

Prices are based on two people sharing a twin or double room. The price includes Standard Class rail travel with seat reservations as necessary and the best available fares on the trains. If you travel during a peak period, particularly at short notice, then supplements may apply.